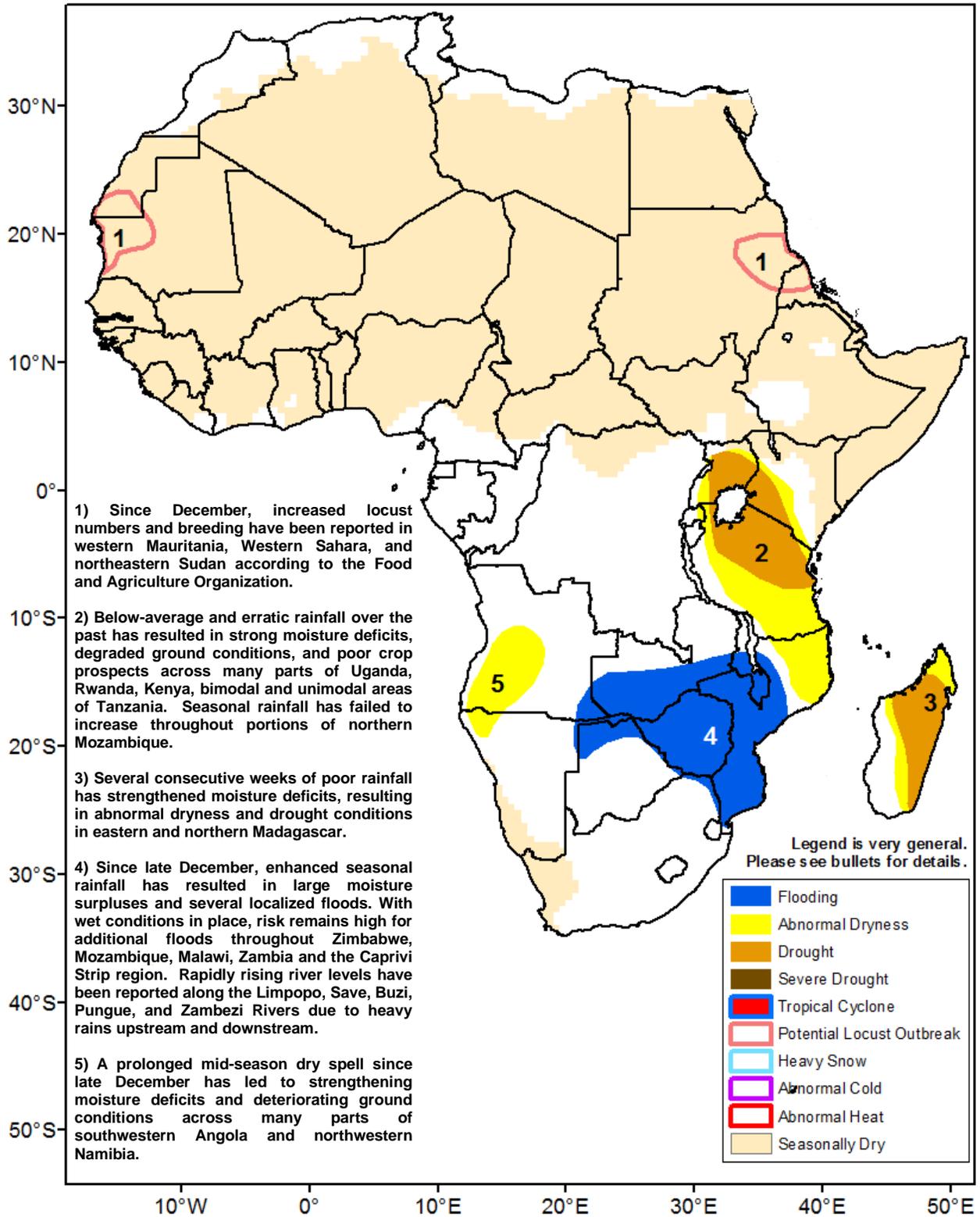




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook January 26 – February 1, 2017

- No relief to enhanced, flood induced rainfall throughout southern Africa.



Flood threat shifts towards the west and north during late January.

In the last seven days, significantly rainfall accumulations continued throughout southeastern Africa. According to satellite rainfall estimates, a band of torrential precipitation (>100mm) can be seen extending from southeastern Angola across Zambia and into Mozambique (**Figure 1**). Compared to the previous week's rainfall distribution, a large increase in rains and moisture was observed in southeastern Angola, and throughout central Zambia, associated with a shift in the monsoon convergence. Despite this shift, many anomalously wet areas continued to experience moderate to locally heavy rainfall totals sustain the risk of flooding. In South Africa, seasonal rains were relatively lighter in amount, but well distributed throughout the Maize Triangle and over Lesotho.

Since the beginning of January, several regions in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and southern Zambia have now experienced more than twice their climatologically expected normal rainfall accumulation. Much of the anomalous wetness has been associated with the persistence of enhanced rainfall since December. Many areas have experienced at least 4-6 consecutive weeks of above average rainfall (**Figure 2**). With little opportunity for drying, excessive rains have reportedly led to damages to infrastructure and crops, losses in livestock, fatalities and have increased the risk for water-borne disease outbreaks and elevated river levels. Both ground reports and remotely sensed flood monitoring depict inundation along the Limpopo, Save, Buzi, Pungue and Zambezi Rivers due to heavy rains both upstream and downstream.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest a slight northward shift in the monsoon circulation, with increased, and possibly flood inducing precipitation amounts across western and central Zambia, with lighter rainfall totals towards the south. While a weakening of rainfall over many parts of Zimbabwe and Mozambique is needed, the threat of flooding and river inundation is extended into Zambia.

Unusually poor rains lead to drought like conditions in parts of Madagascar.

Another week of low and poorly distributed rainfall in eastern Madagascar continues to strengthen seasonal moisture deficits. Since late December, the current season rainfall totals in parts of the central and eastern provinces of Madagascar are some of the lowest on record, with ranking percentiles less than 10 percent (**Figure 3**). Following poor monsoon rains from last year, the dryness has reportedly been associated with water rationing and increased food insecurity. Precipitation models suggest little improvement during late January, as much of the island is under the influence of unfavorable winds and no indication of tropical cyclone activity to help alleviate dryness.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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